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Dialogue among civilizations

Letter dated 30 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose a summary report on a two-day seminar on the theme "Inter-civilizational dialogue", held at Tehran on 13 and 14 December 1998 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 34.

(*Signed*) Hadi **Nejad Hosseinian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/54/150.

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Annex

Report on the seminar on the theme "Inter-civilizational dialogue" (Tehran, 13 and 14 December 1998)

Pursuant to the unanimous adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 53/22 of 4 November 1998, designating the year 2001 as the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, the Islamic Revolution's Cultural Documentation Organization, affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, held a two-day seminar on the theme "Inter-civilizational dialogue" on 13 and 14 December 1998 at Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

At this international gathering, 110 papers were received; abstracts of 50 papers were prepared in English and 70 in Farsi.

The seminar was opened by Dr. Ataollah Mohajerani, Minister for Culture and Islamic Guidance.

University professors and religious scholars from the Islamic Republic of Iran and eminent personalities from Germany, Italy, Egypt, the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon, Kenya, Japan, Canada, Malaysia and the Russian Federation presented their papers and participated in round-table discussions.

At the meeting, which was the first step in implementing the aforementioned General Assembly resolution, useful ideas on the subject matter were exchanged by the participants.

Due to the international aspects of the meeting, heads of diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited at Tehran, including the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other United Nations delegations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, were invited to attend.

The following were the main themes discussed at the seminar:

(a) Definitions of civilizations;

(b) Basis for dialogue among civilizations;

(c) Religion, morality and spirituality at the dialogue among civilizations;

(d) Dialogue among civilizations: peace and the future.

The proceedings of the seminar were published in February 1999 in the Persian language.